

(2) *THALURANIA IOLÆMA*.*Thalurania iolæmus*, Von Pelz. Ornith. Bras. p. 57.*Hab.* Ypanema, Brazil.

Not having seen the type of this species, we are unable to form an opinion regarding it.

XLII.—*Notes on Chinese Ornithology.*

By ROBERT SWINHOE, F.Z.S. &c.

THE last good thing I got at Ningpo was a very fine female specimen of *Ceryle lugubris*, shot by a friend near a stream at the foot of the mountains. The strangest part of the plumage of this bird is the pretty russet-coloured axillaries tinted like salted salmon. Curiously enough, Sharpe makes no mention of this in his 'Monograph of the Kingfishers,' thereby leading me to consider I had got a new species, until I was put right by a reference to Jerdon's 'Birds of India.' In the monograph the Himalayan bird is described in the text as having brownish-black legs; but the plate shows them, together with the claws, of a tile-red. My specimen is smaller than the Nagasaki bird, whose measurements are given, though not so small as the Himalayan; and I agree with Mr. Sharpe that it is not possible to put the two birds apart.

I have only seen *Ceryle guttata* up the country here on one or two occasions. It is fond of streams and canals flanked by trees and thick bushes, among which it sits watching for its prey. When disturbed it starts silently and flies down stream, keeping within a yard or so of the water. I have never seen it hover, like its congener, at a good height above the water. In fact, it more nearly resembles in manners the King of the Shrimps (*Alcedo bengalensis*) than any of our other species.

Ceryle rudis is a very rare bird in Ningpo; and I have only seen it on one or two occasions. On the Yangtse it did not occur till we were nearly up in Szechuen, where the river was well south.

I was relieved of my charge at Ningpo, and took up my

residence in Shanghai on the 7th February. Here I shall remain till the middle of the month (April), when the weather will have sufficiently moderated in the north to allow of my going to my new post at Chefoo. In Shanghai, in spite of my paralytic infirmities, I have been able to get about on the wheelbarrows that serve the natives of the settlement for hansom-cabs. I take a wheelbarrow to market every other morning, and have done so for the whole two months I have spent in this very pleasant town. By this means I have studied the wild fowl which pass the shooting-grounds that provide the market, and have gained some tolerable additions to my collection. I had not been in Shanghai more than a week, when one sunny morning, with the thermometer at freezing-point, as I was passing under a group of willows which overhang the road, my attention was attracted by a strange noise overhead, and, looking up, I saw a party of Waxwings. There were about fifteen of them, sitting like Hawfinches about the trees, with ruffled plumage, as if nipped by the cold. They were all engaged in the chorus, which consisted of a series of jingling notes like the sound produced by light pieces of metal shaken together, with a slight additional noise of sniffing. Is this the garrulousness indicated by the name *Ampelis garrula*? If so, the author of the name must have had a very sensitive ear. They flew away in small parties, those remaining continuing the song, until all had taken wing. On the 1st March I was delighted to see a number of them on a tree in my own garden, dropping down on to the lilac trees and feeding on their black berries. I secured three specimens, two males and a female. These were tinged with soot-colour, like, but not so strongly as our Sparrows, which arises in these last from their habit of repairing for warmth to the chimney-stacks on the tops of our houses. A Waxwing, shot in the country, was given me which was free from such stain. I took down the following notes on my first three specimens:—

Ampelis garrula, ♂. Spec. A. Length 7·4 inches. Wing 4·6; first quill ·12 shorter than second, the longest, falls ·87 short of tip of tail, 1·6 longer than tip of tertiaries. Tail

2·5, of twelve nearly equal feathers ; under tail-coverts $\frac{1}{2}$ inch short of tail-tip ; upper tail-coverts ·92 short of tail-tip. Six vermilion wax tips on each wing.

B, ♀. Length 7·4 inches. Wing 4·42, first quill ·10 shorter than second. Yellow terminal spots on outer webs of quills pale and washed out. Five wax tips on left side, seven on the right. Slightly more yellowish on the belly. Under tail-coverts reach to end of tail.

C, ♂. Length 7·2 inches. Wing 4·4, first and second quill equal and longest. Terminal quill-spots pale and mixed with white, but yellower than in B. Red wax tips, four on each side. Under tail-coverts reach to ·14 from tip of tail.

The sexes were determined by dissection. The stomachs contained seeds of berries, and a few larvæ of insects. The trachea of the male is larger and broader than that of the female.

A look into 'The Ibis' for January 1873 takes me back for a few minutes to Ningpo. Mr. Blyth (page 80) speaks of the occurrence in India of both *Rallus indicus* and *R. aquaticus*. At Tientsin I got the former, as recorded in my last catalogue. I was therefore not a little surprised to get at Ningpo, on the 20th November, a veritable *R. aquaticus*. It was a male, with yellow iris and red bill, wanted the facial mark, and was of somewhat small size.

On the 26th February I found a fine male specimen of the Solitary Snipe hanging up in the Shanghai market. As this is the first instance of my procuring this species in China, I will give a short account of it.

Gallinago solitaria, ♂. Length 11·8 inches. Wing 6·3, reaching to $\frac{1}{2}$ an inch of end of tail ; first quill slightly longer than the second and longest, ·3 longer than the longest tertiary. Tail 2·9 ; outer rectrix 1·35 shorter than centrals and about ·12 broad ; second rectrix rather broader and longer ; third double the breadth and about ·22 longer ; fourth broader again, and ·28 longer ; fifth much broader than the last, and ·31 longer than the first or outer ; the sixth and some five or seven others (number imperfect in the specimen) ordinary scolopacine tail-feathers. Bill from forehead 3 inches, from

gape 2·9, depth at base ·38, colour yellowish brown, black on apical third, greenish at base. Ear large, ·25 below eye in direct line. Tibia bare for ·32; length of tarse 1·4, of middle toe and claw 1·65; outer toe longer than inner; colour of toes yellowish brown strongly tinged with green; claws black. The black of the upper part of the plumage is glossed with purple.

Dissection. Stomach oval, flattened at its sides, lined with a movable thick rugose epithelium, containing small young *Viviparæ* and remains of freshwater insects. Intestines thin; cæca at some distance from the anus, very long and bulging at ends as in *G. scolopacina*.

The plumage of this specimen answers to the description in the 'Fauna Japonica' of the Solitary Snipe, but differs in the colour of the rump, and in the want of bars on the tertiary quills. If the authors of that work took their description from a Japanese specimen, then we must suppose that the species varies greatly. But I cannot help suspecting that the account is taken in fact from a Nepalese specimen as well, especially as Bonaparte separated the two birds. I must wait till I get more specimens; but I half believe that our bird is a conspecies of the Himalayan, and will have to stand as *G. japonica*, Bp. A friend from Ningpo, who was visiting me the other day, recognized the bird at once. He said he had shot them at Ningpo in winter. He has sprung them in retired places at the foot of the hills. When flushed they only fly a short distance and then drop. They are so large that they are sometimes mistaken for Woodcocks. There was a pair in Père David's museum at Pekin.

Snipes have been abundant in the market throughout my stay here; but *G. scolopacina* has been the only species. I have not detected a single *G. horsfieldi*. On the 4th April the first spring Snipes, *G. megala*, were offered for sale.

Archibuteo aquilinus is a commoner bird here than *Buteo japonicus*; I have procured two of the former to one of the latter. From the market I have also got *Circus cineraceus*, several of *Accipiter nisus*, and one young male *Falco æsalon*. I find that Père Heude's new Hawk (see 'Ibis,' January,

p. 96) is nothing but this species in young plumage. The market-men are unfortunately given to cutting off the claws of rapacious birds, that they may pass together with Rooks Jackdaws, Blue Magpies, Laughing Thrushes, &c. &c. for *gibier*; and if one is not sharp, one's servants are apt to serve up as game some curious species.

On the 26th March I was delighted to find a fine male specimen of Gould's "Post-horse Dotterel," *Eudromias veredus*, in nearly complete summer plumage, hanging in the market. This was also the first specimen of this species that I had procured. Why it was so far advanced in summer suit, when Sand-plovers generally are so late in changing, I cannot make out, unless this species is an earlier breeder. I took down the following notes from the fresh bird:—

Eudromias veredus, ♂. Length 9 inches. Wing 6·4, extending half an inch beyond the tail, and ·7 longer than the tertiaries. Tail 2·45, of twelve nearly equal feathers, the two centrals ·15 longer. Bill deep olive-brown, blacker on the terminal portion; length from forehead ·98, from gape 1·25. Eyelids greyish black. *Legs light brownish flesh-colour*; feet washed with grey, blackish on joints; claws black. Bare tibia 1 inch; tarse 2; middle toe ·9, its claw ·2. Throat and forehead pure white. Nape, eyebrow, and cheeks whitish, washed with buff and somewhat mottled and shaded with olive-brown. (In full nuptial plumage the whole head, except the crown, and neck become white; at least this is so in Père David's specimen in museum at Pekin.)

Dissection. Testes long ovate, about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch long, and white. Cæca long, thickening at ends. Gizzard small and oval, with strong lateral muscles, containing only a few small whitish worms, fragments of small mollusk-shells, and a few small pebbles.

I have fortunately a fine pair of *Eudromias asiaticus*, kindly presented me by Dr. Leopold v. Schrenck, of St. Petersburg, to compare with my Shanghai bird. The Russian specimens are marked, the male in full summer plumage, "shot June 1853, on the river Syr-Parja," and the female in winter plumage, "shot 30th January, 1858, on the river Syr-Parja."

The female has shorter wings than the male, and longer toes. The labels bear the name *Charadrius caspius*, Pall., and I suppose the river named is somewhere near the Caspian Sea (I cannot find it on any map I have access to*). Both the Russian specimens have the basal white patch on the outer web of the remiges, so that there can be no doubt that Mr. Harting is right, and Dr. O. Finsch, wrong in their identifications of two species ('Ibis,' 1870, p. 201, and 1872, p. 146). The Russian bird is the true *C. asiaticus* of Pallas. The characters given by Dr. Finsch for discriminating the species are excellent, except that he has guessed the colour of the legs of our bird from a dried skin. Neither of the illustrations to Mr. Harting's paper on these *Charadrii* ('Ibis,' 1870, p. 201) gives the complete summer plumage; and the colour of the legs of his *Eudromias veredus* is of course also an unfortunate guess. The pale collar round the neck, and the white wing-spot, both of which are unaccountably omitted, would in a drawing be far better distinctive characters. Where Mr. Harting found my authority for the occurrence of the western representative in "Northern China," I am unable to divine. Such an error ought to have been corrected long ago.

Out of our China list should be expunged the "White-eye," or "Ferruginous" Duck, *Aithya ferina*; for I now find that I took for it a female of Baer's Duck, *Fulix baeri*, and without sufficient scrutiny admitted the species. In spite of Mr. G. R. Gray, who insisted that it was a cross between *Anas boschas* and *Fulix cristata*, Baer's Duck turns out to be a good species; but it is by no means common, for I have only found four males and two females in the market. In my description of the male in P. Z. S. 1871, p. 419, I have given "greater wing-coverts white." It should be "secondaries white." And in the line above, where the head and neck are stated to be "black reflecting deep green," "and purple" should be added. The description is otherwise correct; but it is as well to mention that the vent is pure white, and the abdomen mottled across with brownish, and that in all my specimens, both male and female, the angle of the chin is

* Should not the name be Syr-Daria i. e. the Jaxartes?—P. L. S.

white, showing a distinct spot. As I have not before given dimensions, I will do so now :—

Fulix baeri (Radde), ♂. Length 18·5 inches. Wing 8·25; first quill ·1 longer than second, and largest. Tail 3·0, of fourteen stiff feathers, pointed, and nearly uniformly graduated, outer ·82 shorter than centrals. Wing falls 1·75 short of tail-tip. Bill from forehead's protruding angle 1·45, to gape 2; uniform breadth ·82. Small piece of tibia bare; tarse 1·48; middle toe and claw 2·45. In this specimen the head and neck are deep black reflecting purple, with a patch of deep chestnut on each side of crown.

Fulix baeri (Radde), ♀. Length 17·5 inches. Wing 7·7 from flexure to tip, 1·2 longer than tertiaries, 1·5 short of tail-tip. Tail 2·8, much graduated; laterals ·9 shorter than centrals; under tail-coverts ·95 shorter than tail-tip, upper tail-coverts 1·1 shorter. Bill 1·55 to forehead, 2 to rictus; height at base ·78; breadth ·90, a little narrower at base, and darker in colour than in the male. Tibia bare at joint; tarse 1·5; middle toe and claw 2·4.

Head and neck blackish brown with dull reflections; a patch of reddish brown on each side at base of bill; chin white mottled with reddish brown. Breast yellower and more diluted than in male, the colour not reaching down so low. Flanks brown. The rest as in male, but duller.

The commonest diving Duck in the market has been the Crested Duck (*Fulix cristata*), then Baer's Duck, then the Scaup (*F. marila*), and lastly the Golden-eye (*Bucephala clangula*). A few Velvet Scoters, *Ædemia fusca*, were offered. I bought an adult male, and was surprised to find what a large and hugely muscular stomach it had, containing bits of thick bivalve shells. A *Meretrix*, one inch in width, was in its œsophagus. I have not seen a single Black Duck, neither *Æ. nigra*, nor *Æ. americana*. The latter is the species the Russians have sent me from the Aleutian Isles, though they call it *Æ. nigra*. They do not distinguish the two conspecies.

The ordinary wild Ducks of the market have been the Mallard, the Yellow-nib (*A. zonorhyncha*), the Teal, the Shoveller, the Pintail, the Widgeon, the Falcated Teal, and the Spectacle-

Teal (*Eunetta falcata* and *E. formosa*), all about equally common. The Gadwall is sometimes exposed, but may be called a somewhat rare Duck. It was not till nearly the end of March that I saw the first Garganey; and then they became the commonest species in the market. The Sheldrake I saw only on one or two occasions. The Mandarin Duck is also brought for sale, but oftener alive than dead. Other Ducks are very seldom brought alive; and I could not induce the marketmen to get me live samples of the species I sought, though I offered tempting prices for them. The females of the Pintail and the Widgeon rarely have the male-like speculum on the wing—a fact which is not noted in Yarrell's 'British Birds.'

Of Geese *Anser albifrons* has been the commonest, then *A. segetum*, then *A. cygnoides* (*ferus*). *A. cinereus* and *A. erythropus* did not show at all. I found them last year in the early winter. There have been also only a few Swans (*Cygnus bewicki*), and no Cranes, but two or three Bustards (*Otis tarda*).

In the first week in April the market was cleared of game by order of the Municipal Council; so now a few shore-birds are all that one sees hanging up in a stall here and there. Of these the most numerous have been the Dunlin, next the large Stint (*Tringa crassirostris*), and then the Knot (*T. canutus*), all in more or less summer plumage. The *Limosa uropygialis* has also been brought in large numbers, some in the unspotted winter coat, some with zigzag bands on the underparts, apparently the intermediate plumage of early spring, and some with bright yellowish-red underparts. The males differ from the females in their much smaller size and much shorter bills. I subjoin the measurements of the two:—

Limosa uropygialis, Gould, ♂. Length 15·25 inches. Wing 9, surpassing tail by $\frac{1}{2}$ an inch, $1\frac{1}{2}$ longer than tertiaries. Tail 3·25, '9 longer than upper tail-coverts, '2 longer than under tail-coverts, 1·1 shorter than tip of toe extended backwards—of twelve rectrices, all equal, except the two centrals, which are '2 longer than the rest. Bill recurved, 3·1 from forehead, 1·25 from gape; basal portion flesh-coloured tinged with grey,

blackish brown on more than apical half. Bare part of tibia 1·2; tarse 2·25; middle toe and claw 1·42; colour greyish black, whitish on reticulations.

Limosa uropygialis, Gould, ♀. Length 18 inches. Wing 9·6, surpassing tail by ·6; 1·4 longer than tertiaries. Tail 3·6, 1·9 short of tip of toe. Bill recurved, 4·85 from forehead, from gape 4·93; colour olive-grey, flesh-colour near base, blackish brown on culmen and for greater part of length. Bare tibia 1·25; tarse 2·5; middle toe and claw 1·7.

Dissection of female. Mass of small eggs. Cæca ·9 from anus, nearly equal, ·6 long, uniformly thin and somewhat pointed. False cæcum twice as thick, curled, also ·6 long, 10·50 inches from anus. Intestine 12·75 inches long. Gizzard of an irregular heart-shape, with ·9 of proventriculus; length 1·4, breadth ·9; epithelium bright indian yellow, containing a few flat flask-shaped small seeds of some shore-plant.

Of the other Godwit, *Limosa brevipes*, G. R. Gray, I have seen but one specimen, and that a male, picked up on the 28th March. Its neck is washed with reddish, and its underparts obscurely barred. I give my note from the fresh bird.

Limosa brevipes, G. R. Gray, ♂. Length 15·50 inches. Wing 7·4, reaching to end of tail, ·68 longer than tertiaries. Tail 3·1, ·95 longer than upper tail-coverts, ·25 than lower tail-coverts, 2·75 short of tip of toes extended backwards—of twelve rectrices, the two outer on each side and the two centrals being ·15 longer than the rest. Iris deep brown. Bill straight, from forehead 3·7, same length from gape; under mandible ·2 shorter than upper; colour blackish brown on apical third, the rest pale yellowish brown. Bare tibia 1·48; tarse 2·7; middle toe 1·4, its claw ·5, curved outwards and broadly pectinated; colour olive-black, with pale reticulations.

Dissection. Trachea simple with close-set narrow rings. Intestines large and watery, with thick pointed cæca, right one longer than left, which is about ·78 long, and about ·7 from anus; too far gone to seek for the false cæcum or to measure length. Gizzard an irregular oval about 1·35 long

by 1·1 broad, with strong lateral tendons, epithelium dark, containing bits of silica and a few small white worms.

Of Sandpipers I have met with from time to time one or two specimens of the following :—*Tringoides hypoleucus*, *Totanus fuscus*, *T. calidris*, *T. ochropus*, and *T. glareola*. The *T. brevipes* has not appeared.

The Great Stint differs more in point of size between the sexes than perhaps any other Stint. The female is also less spotted on the underparts than the male at this season; and red feathers are appearing on the backs of both, like those seen on that of *Tringa cinclus* on the approach of summer. I have the following jottings on the two sexes :—

Tringa crassirostris, T. & S., ♂. Length 10·5 inches. Wing 7, surpassing tail by ·2, and tertiaries by ·7. Tail 2·85, of twelve rectrices, the two centrals exceeding the rest by ·1. Bill from forehead 1·78, from gape the same; colour olive-black, browner near base of lower mandible. Tibia bare for ·7; tarse 1·55; middle toe 1 inch, its claw ·25; colour yellowish olive-grey, blackish grey on toes, with black claws.

Tringa crassirostris, T. & S., ♀. Length 11·25 inches. Wing 7·4, first quill the longest, ·28 longer than second, half an inch longer than the tail, 1·1 longer than the tertiaries. Tail 3·15. Bill 1·73. Tarse 1·43; middle toe 1 inch, its claw ·25.

Dissection of male. Trachea simple with narrow close rings. Testes, one ·2 long, the other very minute, both pure white. Cæca situate $\frac{1}{2}$ an inch from anus, unequal in length, the larger ·8 long, broad at base, tapering to a point. The false cæcum about 9·50 from anus, curled, ·4 long, ·15 thick at base, ending in a point. Intestine thick and white, 24 inches long. Gizzard 1·3 long by ·9, oval, and flattish at the sides, with powerful tendons, empty, with a thick yellowish epithelium.

The market of Shanghai, carefully watched the winter through, would yield a fine collection of Chinese sea-birds. It is not supplied from the lakes of the interior, but from the neighbouring sea-coast, and especially, I am told, from the mud flats outside the sea-wall that girds the city of Fung Hien

on Hangchow Bay, with which there is direct canal communication from this.

Before leaving Shanghai for the present, it would be as well to say a few words on the birds that frequent her gardens during the winter. The commonest resident is of course the little House-Sparrow (*Passer montanus*), as familiar and as noisy as its congener at home, and certainly as dingy and as soot-bedaubed as its cousin of London. It roosts and breeds under the eaves of houses as elsewhere; and I cannot say that I can detect from recollection any difference between the manners and notes of the two species. The bird of the gardens is the large variety of the Green Bulbul (*Ixos sinensis*), with its rich loud notes. It feeds on the berries of the many cultivated bushes in winter, eats insects in summer, and breeds in as exposed places as the Hedge-Sparrow in England. The "Family Bird" (*Munia acuticauda*) is the next common, chirping and swinging its tail violently from side to side as it peers at you from the branches above. They build their large round nests in the evergreens, usually about 20 feet from the ground, in which the parent birds roost the winter through. A pair are building a nest in a creeping-rose over my veranda. They have been a week at it, and it is now all but finished. The Tomtit (*Parus minor*) is singing out lustily his double love-note, very like that of his large brother (*P. major*) at home, as all his other notes are also. He has been here all the winter, and will no doubt stay to breed. You find him in most of the gardens. Picking about at the roots of bushes may be seen an occasional Thrush (*Turdus pallens*) and the little winter Blue-tail Robin (*Ianthia cyanura*); but the Blackbird seldom enters the town, and it is only now and then that you see a pair of Magpie Robins chasing and screeching after each other*. A Blue Magpie (*Cyanopoliis cyanus*) or a Shrike

* A Magpie has its nest in a large tree in the compound of a mercantile firm. The same birds and the same nest infested a tree in a garden a few doors off, where the birds reared their young from year to year until last year, when a cat destroyed the progeny. The birds carried away the nest twig by twig and set up on the tree which they now occupy. Swallows have been here since the beginning of this month, and are looking up their last year's nests in the rafters of the Chinese shops.

(*Lanius schach*) sometimes shows itself, with a crowd of small birds crying after it; and among the Sparrows of the road you occasionally see an odd Bunting (*Emberiza spodocephala*) or two. On the trees of some of the larger inclosures I have noted, when cold, Bulfinches, Hawfinches, Mountain-Finches, Redpolls, and *Eophona melanura*, and, as I have mentioned, Waxwings, sometimes also an odd party of Bottle-Tits (*Mecistura glaucogularis*) and *Suthora webbiana*. But the country around, with its alluvial soil, its cultivated lands, and tall-growing willows and other trees encircling villages and cemeteries, abounds in all the birds that frequent the level country of this latitude of China, and affords quite a contrast to the flat land about Ningpo, with its marine soil and stunted vegetation. The Chinese Rook (*Corvus pastinator*), which in Ningpo is a winter visitant only, remains about Shanghai; and to my delight I have just discovered a rookery a few miles out of town, at the lounge at the end of the Bubbling-Well Road, the great evening drive of this place. The Rooks are building on the tall *Salisburia* trees about the temple. One tree has as many as nine nests. This is the first year of the establishment.

Shanghai, 14th April, 1873.

XLIII.—*Additions to the List of Birds of Nicaragua.*

By P. L. SCLATER.

IN 'The Ibis' for last year (p. 311), Mr. Salvin has given us a valuable article on the birds of Nicaragua, based principally upon the collections of Mr. Thomas Belt, lately resident at the gold-mines of Chontales. Mr. Belt has recently asked me to determine for him the specimens in another small collection which he has made in the same district. As this contains examples of several species not represented in the former series, I have thought it desirable to record their names, in order to complete our knowledge of the ornithology of this interesting district as far as possible.

These additional species are :—